

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-4, 6-16, 18-27, 29 and 30 are now pending in this application. By this Amendment, 1 and 13 are amended; claims 5, 17 and 28 are canceled; and claims 29 and 30 are added.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration (since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution); (c) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; (d) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (e) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. In particular, claims 1 and 13 are merely amended to incorporate the definition of "nucleotide analog" and the features of canceled claims 5, 17 and 28, and therefore do not raise any new issues. The addition of new claims 29 and 30 do not raise any new issues since they depend on and therefore merely further define the invention of claims 4 and 16, respectively. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

The courtesies extended to Applicants' representative by Examiner Lewis at the interview held March 9, 2004, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

Claims 1-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claims 1 and 13 have been amended in order to address the rejection. Specifically, claims 1 and 13 have been amended to further define L and how it is attached to W. In addition, claims 1 and 13 are amended to replace the term "nucleotide analog" with the

definition of "nucleotide analog" on page 5 of the specification. In view of these amendments, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 13 clearly define the invention, and claims 9 and 21 more clearly depend from amended claims 1 and 13.

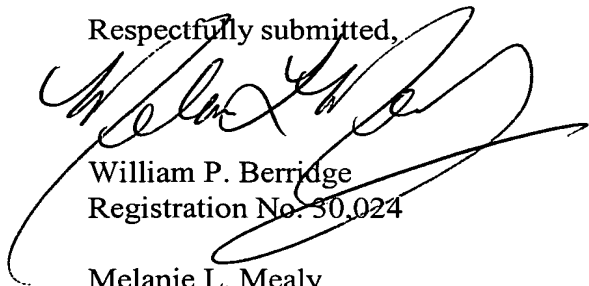
The claims clearly recite the invention. Therefore, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claim 29 and 30 have been added to further define the invention. Claim 29 and 30 depend on claims 4 and 16, respectively, and are therefore patentable for at least the same reasons as claims 4 and 16.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-4, 6-16, 18-27, 29 and 30 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: March 11, 2004

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